

Abstract 615

TITLE: Use of a Mobile Unit to Provide Integrated HIV Prevention Services

AUTHORS: Walker, S (Bureau of HIV/STD Prevention, Houston, TX)

ISSUE: Persons at high a risk for STDs and HIV do not often access provided by community based or public health clinics. Thus, effective community outreach activities are essential.

SETTING: Mobile outreach unit that allows the program to provide education and screening for HIV and other STDs in high risk Houston neighborhoods.

PROJECT: Responding to the HIV/AIDS and STD epidemic and in several Houston neighborhoods, the Bureau of HIV/STD Prevention developed a comprehensive community involvement program to partner with community organizations and civic groups, churches and other entities to incorporate HIV/AIDS prevention activities to persons at high-risk. The program included creation of a specialized mobile unit to serve as a health service center. The unit allows the program a venue for health education/risk reduction and prevention counseling and screening activities, including testing for HIV, syphilis and chlamydia to be conducted.

RESULTS: Implemented in 1997, mobile unit program is well received in many areas of the city, and has been the primary point of contact for health services for indigent and disadvantaged clients, and has strengthen community partnerships with the local health department.

LESSONS LEARNED: The Bureau's has experienced several successes with the program. Several community leaders have partnered with the program to strengthen prevention efforts. The Bureau is investigating collaboration with other health department groups to increase availability of primary health care to indigent populations.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Steven L. Walker

Address: 8000 N. Stadium Drive, 5th Floor
Houston, TX 77054

Telephone: (713) 794-2980

Fax: (713) 558-2493

E-mail: swalker@hlt.ci.houston.tx.us